The proposal for 'Conservation and Sustainable Management of Pushkar Sarovar in Ajmer' has also been examined and is under active consideration of this Ministry. The proposal awaits certain administrative inputs from the Government of Rajasthan. The State Government has been informed about the same.

Diversion of forest land for wind energy projects

1836. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in Sakri taluka of Dhule District of Maharashtra about 340 hectares of forest land has been diverted for wind energy projects depriving the rights of scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers there;

(b) if so, what prompted Government to deprive to change mind at the cost of scheduled tribes and other forest dwellers;

(c) in case Government finally go for wind energy projects then whether Government is prepared to compensate them adequately; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Two wind energy projects covering an area of 340.46 hectares were accorded approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the year 2005-06 by the Central Government in Dhule district of Maharashtra, in which no displacement of people was involved.

(c) and (d) In projects where displacement of people is involved, the resettlement is done as per the Central Government and the concerned State Governments' Relief and Rehabilitation Policy. In case of displacement of people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes, the views of Ministry of Tribal Affairs are also taken into consideration.

Projects for tackling climate changes in the country

1837. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects on tackling climate change underway in the country;

(b) whether international assistance is being sought by Government to finance these projects to develop innovative means of tackling changes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has any proposal to constitute an Expert Group to study climate change; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Several projects on multidisciplinary aspects of Climate Change have been completed and funded by the Government of India, Global

Environment Facility (GEF) and also under bilateral cooperation. India has received an indicative allocation of US$ 74.9 millions to fund climate change projects (2006-2010) in the country through GEF, which is the multilateral financial mechanism.

(d) and (e) Government of India has already set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India on impacts of Climate Change to identify the impacts of anthropogenic Climate Change on India and to identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic Climate Change impacts. The composition of the Expert Committee includes eminent scientists and representatives of various Ministries and Departments concerned.

Scheme for the protection of environment

†1838. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fomulated any action plan for the protection of the environment in coordination with his Ministry and Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government is conscious of the need for protection of environment and has formulated National Environment Policy during May, 2006. The Policy aims at implementing regulatory reforms, programmes and projects for environmental conservation, review & enactment of legislation, by the agencies of Central, State & Local Governments. The Policy also seeks to encourage partnerships of different stakeholders. The principal objectives of the Policy are conservation of critical environmental resources; intra-generational equity: livelihood security for the poor; inter-generational equity; integration of environmental concerns in economic and social development; efficiency in environmental resource use; environmental governance; and enhancement of resources for environmental conservation.

Land for the Pamba Project

1839. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether land for the Pamba Project has been made available;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present hurdles in the implementation of the project;

(d) whether Government has taken any step to remove these hurdles;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received one proposal for construction of road (0.857 ha) in Pamba valley and one proposal for irrigation (1.4435 ha) on Pamba and Kakki Rivers in the year 2002 and 2004 respectively and both were accorded approval by the Ministry.

Increasing deaths of elephants and himalayan brown bears

1840. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.